



Take a Picture Day in Bloomington

I love old photographs. When I find a good one, I can stare at the image for an hour trying to imagine what life was like for the people in it. And if that picture was taken in a familiar place, it becomes even more meaningful to me.

A year ago, we ran a fabulous old photo showing the laying of the cornerstone of our courthouse in May 1907. Like most old photographs, this one was taken to commemorate an important event. It is far rarer to find pictures that show everyday life—what it was like when all those folks a hundred years ago left the Square and went about the ordinary business of living.

Which brings us to “Take a Picture Day in Bloomington.” We are asking you, our readers, to take photographs on Saturday, August 23.

We then want you to pick your best pictures, and send them to us. In our next issue we will run a selection of those images that we feel best illustrate a typical summer Saturday in Bloomington 2008. We will display many more of those pictures for all to see on our website, magbloom.com. You can find complete details on page 10.

What kind of photographs should you take? I'd say, whatever catches your fancy. Your kids, your wife, your husband (your dog, your cat) doing whatever they (and you) do on a Saturday. Or maybe people eating ice cream, shopping in the Square, riding their bikes (or motorcycles), having coffee in an outdoor café, picking over a garage sale, protesting a war or a highway, doing yoga, flying a kite, mowing the lawn, playing Frisbee, having a picnic, swimming in a lake or pool, walking around

the Farmer's Market, listening to a band, or just drinking cold beer. Little League baseball, weddings, bar mitzvahs, confirmations, IU events, bird watchers, roller bladers, cops giving tickets, dentists examining teeth, salesmen selling cars, students moving in, and couples kissing would all seem to me to be fair game. Wherever your eye, your interest, your passion leads you.

I think it is going to be a lot of fun come October to see what you and your neighbors send in. And I am going to enjoy imagining what Bloomingtonians a hundred years from now will think about the way we lived.

Note: If you've had trouble in the past getting your hands on a copy of *Bloom*, it should be getting a little easier. In April, we raised our distribution by 1,000 to a total of 14,000. With this issue we have raised distribution again, to 15,000. A complete list of the 200 locations where *Bloom* is available can be found on our website.

Malcolm Abrams
editor and publisher



Laying of the courthouse cornerstone. Photo courtesy of the Monroe County History Center